

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)091**

**(Question Serial No. 2894)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not specified

Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control

Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health

Question:

Hawking is a means to resist the imbalance of market economy. At a panel meeting of the Legislative Council, the Secretary for Food and Health acknowledged the change of the Government's role in respect of hawker policy from management to facilitation.

Given that the Government has changed its policy idea, please advise whether financial resources are available to help take forward the change, what department(s) will support the "facilitation" role, and whether resources and manpower will be earmarked for liaising and consulting with the local community for the promotion of the district-led hawker policy.

Asked by: Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit (Member Question No. 87)

Reply:

The Government is committed to implementing a hawker policy which can strike an optimal balance between allowing licensed hawking business to thrive on the one hand and meeting other legitimate concerns such as avoiding unreasonable nuisance to the local community in addition to ensuring food safety, environmental hygiene and public security on the other. We keep an open mind towards proposals for developing the hawker trade or the establishment of open-air bazaars or night markets with local characteristics, so long as food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, public passageways are not obstructed and local community support is obtained. If suitable sites are identified and support from relevant district councils has been obtained and provided that food safety and environmental hygiene are not compromised, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department stands ready to facilitate liaison with relevant government departments. Existing resources will continue to be deployed to carry out the said facilitation work.